Inside Region 3

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Indiana Bat Recovery Plan Released For Public Comment

The agency draft revised recovery plan for the endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) was recently released for public review and comments. The Service will accept comments from all interested parties through June 8.

The Indiana bat was listed as endangered in 1967. Major threats to the bat are believed to be human disturbance of hibernating bats, as well as lack of access by bats to hibernation caves. Other threats are under study.

The Service approved the Indiana Bat Recovery Plan in 1983. Biologists have noted a 60 percent decline in Indiana bat numbers from the 1960s through the mid-1990s.

The Indiana Bat Recovery Team, comprised of federal and state biologists and other bat experts, have developed a revised draft plan based on the bat's current status.

Updates in biologicial information can lead to revisions to existing recovery plans, and a public comment period on the recovery plan.

Copies of the Indiana Bat Agency Draft Revised Recovery Plan may be obtained from the Service's Web site at: http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/ pdf/bat.pdf.



Prescribed Fire. Fire Technician Eric Earhart uses a drip torch to burn off unwanted vegetation at Windom WMD. Photo by Steve Kallin.

Tis the Season....

Windom Waterfowl Management District began its prescribed burning season April 7 with a 157 acre burn on the Long Lake Waterfowl Production Area. Fre-

quent precipitation has hindered early season burning efforts. So far, only 292 acres have been burned. (*Steve Kallin, Windom WMD*)

9,487 Hours: Sherburne and Crane Meadows Refuges Honor Contributions of 610 Volunteers

Six hundred ten volunteers--503 from Sherburne and 107 from Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuges--were honored for their contributions to the national wildlife refuges at a recognition dinner held recently at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge.

During 1998, volunteers logged 8,886 hours at Sherburne NWR, a 25 percent increase over the previous year. Robin DeLong of Princeton, Minn., received Sherburne's 1998 Volunteer of the Year award for her contribution of more than 300 hours of activities that included coordinating the wildlife film festival, team leader for a prairie seed collecting group, monitor for the oak savanna study, wildlife interpretation and more. Among the volunteers were 133 who



participated in prairie seed collecting, wildlife interpretation, adopt-a-trail, adopt-a-fishing area, assistance with special events and many other public use, resource, and clerical projects.

Five volunteer groups: Elk River Alternative Learning Center, St. Cloud State University Biology Department, Sentencing To Service, Telephone Pioneers of America and Silver Lakers 4-H Club, accomplished resource surveys, kiosk maintenance, bridge building and a variety or other special projects. Thirteen other groups and families participated in the Adopt-a-Road program.

Crane Meadows honored 107 volunteers for 601 hours of service to the Refuge during 1998. Within this group, 15 regular volunteers groomed cross-country ski trails, plowed snow, planted wildlife food plots, mowed grass and cleaned offices.

Three volunteer groups: Little Fall High School Natural Resource Class, St. Cloud State University Biology Department and St. Cloud Area Learning Center, helped monitor kestral, bluebird, and wood duck boxes; helped survey waterfowl and sandhill crane nests and removed fence.

The 601 volunteers hours at Crane Meadows is a 21 percent increase from 472 hours donated in 1997. Approximately 115 people attended the dinner. (Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR)

Atterbury Job Corps Students Restore 12-Acre Refuge Wetland

Students at Atterbury Job Corps were presented plaques recognizing their roles in the successful restoration of Endicott Marsh during an awards ceremony held recently at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge.

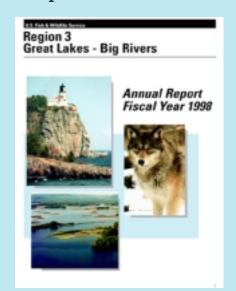
Job Corps students contributed more than 2,400 hours of work to the 12-acre restoration project. Forty people, including Job Corps students and administrators, Green Thumb participants, Natural Resources Conservation Service staff attended the ceremony.

Students received valuable on-the-job training and enabled the refuge to complete a needed restoration. Refreshments and a tour of the Refuge were provided. (Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR)

Region 3 Annual Report Completed; Focuses on Programs and Ecosystems

Summary of Comprehensive Report Also Available

The Region 3 Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1998 is now published. The comprehensive report details the activities and accomplishments of the Region's employees by resource Programs and Ecosystem Teams. A chapter on the Midwest Natural Resources Group is also included. The Annual Report is available in two documents: a 100-page Executive Summary and the complete 308-page report. The complete report contains program and ecosystem information contained in the Executive Summary, plus more than 1,000 individual reports submitted through the Accomplishment Reporting System during Fiscal Year 1998. The Annual Report will be available soon to all members of



Region 3 via the Internet on the Region 3 Homepage. Chapters will be posted in portable document format (.pdf) for easy viewing. (Scott Flaherty, External Affairs)

Green Bay Field Office Earns Forest Service's 'Taking Wing Award'

Forest Service Partnership Project Improves 266 Acres of Wetland Habitat in Wisconsin's Chequamegon -Nicolet National Forest

The Green Bay Field Office was recently presented with the 1998 Taking Wing Award from the U.S. Forest Service for the Office's partnership role in the restoration of the Wilson Flowage wetland complex

The Taking Wing Award recognizes outstanding wetland habitat improvement work done by Forest Service partners.

The award was accepted by Regional Director Bill Hartwig on behalf of the Green Bay Field Office at the 1999 North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference.

Wilson Flowage, located on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in northern Wisconsin, consists of two impoundments totaling 266 acres. The wetland improvement project involved reconstruction of failing earthen dams, and the installation of water control structures for habitat management capabilities.

The completed project provides high quality foraging habitat for waterfowl, eagles, osprey, and numerous other wildlife species, as well as allowing for the development of a northern pike and pan fishery. (Gary Van Vreede, Green Bay Field Office)



Partnership Beneficiary. Michigan's piping plover populations will benefit from a recent partnership that aims to protect 25 percent of the Great Lakes' nesting locations for the endangered species.

Service and Michigan Land Use Institute Partner to Protect Coastal Habitat

The Michigan Land Use Institute and Service recently agreed to join forces in an effort to protect coastal wildlife habitat in three counties in the northwest part of Michigan's lower penninsula.

The partnership aim to increase protection of coastal habitat in Emmet, Charlevoix and Leelanau counties near Traverse Bay on Lake Michigan.

The initiative will also help increase protection for approximately 25 percent of Great Lakes' piping plover nesting locations.

The Service and the Institute have applied as partners for grants through the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund and Michigan Coastal Management Program. Once funded, the Institute will conduct workshops for real estate professionals, landowners, government officials and interested citizens to teach about protection of the counties' coastal habitats, home to Michigan's largest breeding population of piping plover and three threatened plant species: Pitcher's



Pitcher's thistle

thistle, Houghton's goldenrod and dwarf lake iris.

The Institute will also work with local governments on local zoning and ordinances to address conservation of coastal areas and protection of threatened or endangered species.

Partners in the effort include the Michigan DNR, Universities of Michigan and Minnesota, The Nature Conservancy and Whitefish Point Bird Observatory. (Rachel Miller, East Lansing Field Office)

Innovative Plan For Dredge Waste Earns Winona District Manager U.S. Army Commander's Award

New 30-Acre Prairie and 120 Acres of Wetlands Added to Upper Mississippi Refuge

For his creative approach to dealing with the environmental and politically sensitive issue of river dredge disposal Bob Drieslein, Winona District Manager of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, was presented the U.S. Army Commander's Award by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during a recent meeting of the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee.

Dreislein helped the Corps of Engineers dispose of nearly 20 years worth of dredge waste by developing an environmentally sound and politically acceptable method of disposing of dredged sand the Corps was attempting to relocate from its Grand Encampment disposal site on the Mississippi

River's Pool 4 near Wabasha, Minn.

During the summer of 1998, the Corps, through its contractor, planned to relocate 500,000 cubic yards of sand from the disposal site to an upland location on private property in Wabasha County, Minn.

Local residents objected to the Corps' plan, and the county denied the contractor a conditional use permit. The Corps then approached Dreislein about disposing of the sand on Refuge land.

Dreislein developed an innovative plan, using the relocated sand to create the Wabasha Prairie Project, a 30-acre tract of native grasses planted on a landscape of sand mixed with topsoil scraped from a nearby location. Six acres of shallow wetlands were created from the depressions resulting from the topsoil scrapes. Dreislein also secured a donation of 120 acres of new wetland habitat by the contractor.

The entire \$2.5 million project, which included the relocation of the dredged sand, contouring, seeding topsoil scraping and other construction work was funded by the Corps of Engineers. Nearly all the work was completed by November 1998.

Executing the plan involved countless hours of coordination with Members of Congress, state, federal and county agencies. In the end, even the most skeptical neighbors seemed satisfied with the results. (*Jim Fisher*, *UMRNFWR*)

Illinois EcoWatch Names Cypress Creek Staff Volunteers of the Year

Partnership Contributes to Restorations in Cache River Watershed

Cypress Creek Refuge staff and volunteers received recently were named Volunteer Group of the Year by the Illinois EcoWatch Program.

Volunteers and Refuge staff monitored 12 streams in the Cache River watershed and have assisted with piloting the Wetland Watch monitoring program.

Cypress Creek Refuge and its volunteers have participated in the Illinois EcoWatch Network since 1995. The network is made up of individuals and organizations trained to conduct scientific monitoring of rivers,

forests, prairies and wetlands.

The Refuge works specifically with RiverWatch and ForestWatch in the Cache River watershed. Long-term monitoring data achieved by this program will be applied to reforestation and wetland restoratation efforts implemented by the Refuge and other Joint Venture partners. Wetland Watch will be implemented next year in the Cache River watershed. Other partners in the EcoWatch Program include the Nature Conservancy and Illinois DNR. (Elizabeth Jones, Cypress Creek NWR)

Prescribed Burns Enhance 1,026 Acres of Native Prairie at Mark Twain's Wapello District

Wapello District of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge completed three prescribed burns on 1,026 acres of the Horseshoe Bend Division March 17-19.

The burns help manage native prairies and enhancing stands of prairie cordgrass,

setting back invading trees and brush, and fuel reduction. If weather conditions remain favorable, the District plans to burn an additional 900 acres. (*Tim Julison, Mark Twain NWR*)

'Singing Ranger,' Part of Migratory Bird Day Celebration at St. Paul's Como Zoo

Staff from the Minnesota Valley NWR met recently with Cindy Fowler of

the Como
Zoo in St.
Paul, Minn.,

to set the

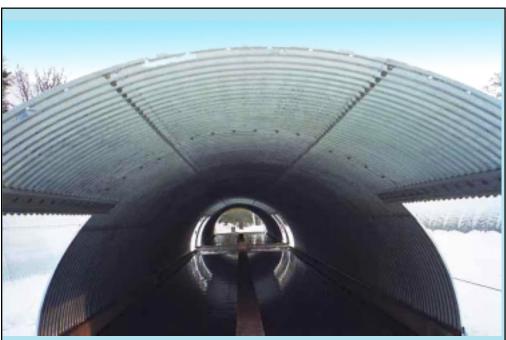


agenda for this year's International Migratory Bird Day festivities. This year's observance is set for Saturday, May 8 and features the National Park Service's Charlie Maguire, popularly known as the "Singing Ranger." Maguire will make two appearances during the Saturday event. There will also be exhibitors, "Certificates of Survival," poster awards to "winning warblers," and migrations games. (Ed Moyer, Minnesota Valley NWR)

Ohio Man Fined For Illegal Sale of Endangered American Crocodile

Gregory S. Prince of Dayton, Ohio, paid a \$2,000.00 fine March 10, 1999, for his unlawful interstate sale of a federally endangered American crocodile. Prince sold the crocodile to Service undercover agent Steve Oberholtzer for \$400. Agents Paul Beiriger and Andrew Pierce later interviewed Prince who admitted purchasing at least seven additional American crocodiles from an individual in Florida in 1993. The Service and Indiana Department of Natural

Resources have been investigating the illegal sale of American Crocodiles into the pet trade for more than a year. The investigation revealed additional illegal sales of American Crocodiles from Florida to pet businesses in Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Ohio. The endangered American Crocodile's range in the United States is restricted to the southern tip of Florida. (*Paul E. Beiriger, Rosemont, Law Enforcement Office*)



Fish-Eye View. The aluminum raceway covers have access doors for hatchery staff. Photo by Faber Bland

Raceway Covers Protect Hatchery Stocks From Effects of Sun and Predators

The Pendills Creek National Fish Hatchery provides 700,000 lake trout averaging five to six inches for stocking in the Great Lakes each year.

After fish reach approximately two inches in length they are moved to outdoor rearing units, known as raceways.

The hatchery recently completed installing permanent aluminum raceway covers over 12 of the 16 raceways. The covers help protect fish from direct

sunlight, which promotes growth of eye cataract and sunburn on the backs of the fish. Overall, the shade from the covers provides for higher quality fish since the fish tend to feed much better in low light conditions. Bird predation, which is a serious problem at many fish hatcheries, is also minimized with properly constructed raceway covers. (*Tracy Mattheis, Pendills Creek NFH*)

From Pasture to Managed Grassland, Grazing Project Benefits Environment

The Central Wisconsin River Graziers
Network completed the first year of a
three-year project to implement
Management Intensive Grazing on
dairy and livestock farms in central
Wisconsin.

Grazing plans were prepared for 32 farms, resulting in 1,665 acres of cropland being converted to managed grassland pasture. The project is funded in part through a Service Cost-Share Challenge Grant.

Project benefits include a 10,000tons per year reduction in soil loss; a reduction of 2,000 tons of sediment and 24,246 pounds of phosphorus delivered to area surface waters; a greater than 90-percent reduction in pesticide use and the improvement of grassland bird and other wildlife habitat.(Gary Van Vreede, Green Bay Field Office)

Service Helps Fund Stewards to Protect Piping Plover at Michigan State Parks

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division will employ two piping plover stewards to help protect the endangered birds from predators and the public at four Michigan state parks. This will potentially increase protection and productivity for about 40 percent of piping plover nests in Michigan in 1999.

The Michigan DNR has used Service funding (ESA Section 6) to support a steward at one state park in the past. This year, through the Great Lakes Ecosystem Team competitive grant proposals, the Service is able to provide funding for a second steward.

The Michigan DNR provides a vehicle, on-site supervision and administration. (Rachel Miller, East Lansing Field Office)

Handicap Accessible Fishing Area Created on Lake Onalaska

Work began recently on a handicap accessible fishing area near a popular boat landing on Lake Onalaska, Wisconsin. An area of approximately 60 feet 'x 100 feet' was dredged to provide a banked fishing location directly adjacent to the boat landing on the lake (Upper Mississippi River Pool 7). The on-going project will include a wheelchair accessible asphalt pad with parking spaces for two handicapaccessible vans, wheelchair bumpers and benches and a disabled-accessible fishing/ boating dock. Although the project won't be complete until mid-summer, several fisherman in wheelchairs have already begun fishing from the area. (Mary Stefanski, UMRNFRW-LaCrosse District)

LaCrosse Fish Health Center Hosts Fish Health Management Course

For the second time this year, staff of the LaCrosse Fish Health Center in Onalaska, Wis., teamed with the National Conservation Training Center to present "Introduction to Fish Health Management" March 15-19, 1999.

Sixteen students learned to use microscopes, identify parasitic, bacterial and viral pathogens, use chemotherapeutants and how to calculate treatment levels, sample preparation and shipping methods, and much more.

Service instructors included John Whitney, Audrey Dikkeboom, Ken Phillips, Terry Ott, Becky Lasee and Rick Nelson. Janet Beitlich served as course administrator. This course is intended as an introductory training course for hatchery biologists, private fish culturists, field managers and others with an interest in fish health management.

An intermediate level course in fish diagnostic methods will be offered in August, 1999. (Becky Lasee, La Crosse Fish Health Center)

Necedah Hosts Crane Counters Preparing For Foundation's Midwest Counting Event April 24

A group of 28 volunteers attended an educational meeting April 10, 1999 at Necedah NWR to learn about the upcoming International Crane Foundation's 27th Annual Midwest Crane Count.

The attendees learned about basic crane biology, history and identification. A slide presentation was given by Refuge staff, focusing on education and the many aspects of cranes in Wisconsin.

Arris Sullivan, the Juneau County Crane Count Coordinator, gave participants details on how to record and tally their sightings

On April 24, 1999, the crane counters will be in the marshes from 5:30 - 7:30 a.m. in an effort to get an accurate count of the number of individual and breeding



Sandhill Crane. Photo by T.Schneider, Michigan Travel Bureau

pairs of sandhill cranes. (Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR).

Regional Staff Promote Service Programs at Cabela's Spring Expo

Regional staff from Federal Aid, External Affairs, and Refuges staffed two booths booth at the first Spring Expo held March 19-21 at Cabela's in Owatonna, Minn.-- the largest outdoor recreation retail facility in the United States.

Service staff met with more than 49,000 shoppers during the three days event, educating them on Service programs and promoting the National Wildlife Refuge System and other programs.

More than 8,000 brochures were distributed during the Expo, which was created to bring manufacturers' and their new products to customers. Several contacts were made with manufacturer's and discussions of using the Sport Fish and Wildlife



Photo by Julie Morin.

Restorationlogo were initiated

The Service was the only federal agency invited to participate, (authorized under a MOU with Cabela's). As a result of our successful participation, the Service has been invited to participate in a similar Fall event. (Dan Sobieck, External Affairs & Julie Morin, Federal Aid)

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following 83 Accomplishment Reports were received March 29 and April 9, 1999.		353.	Muscatatuck NWR Recog- nizes Job Corp Students For Wetland Restoration		Ed Moyer, Minnesota Valley NWR
337.	Sherburne NWR Honors Volunteers		Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR	370.	1.4 Million Lake Trout Get Fins Clipped David R. Huntly, Jordan River
	Nancy Haugen, Sherburne NWR	354.	MNWR Finds Increased Population of Rare Orchid Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck	371.	NFH Education on Contaminants
338.	Crane Meadows NWR Honors 107 Volunteers Nancy Haugen, Crane Mead	357.	NWR Innovative Plan For Dredge		and RestorationLisa Williams, East LansingField Office
339.	ows NWR Project WET Workshop		Waste Earns Winona District Manager U.S. Army Commander's Award	372.	Federal Aid Participates at Cabela's Spring Expo
	Makes a Splash! Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR		James Fisher, Upper Missis- sippi River NW&FR		Julie Morin, Division of Federal Aid
346.	Service Partners With Michigan Land Use Institute to Conserve Coastal Habitat Rachel Miller, East Lansing	358.	Region's "Wolf Tracks" Updates Public on Wolf Issues Laura Ragan, External Affairs	373.	Prescribed Burn at Wapello District Tim Julison, Mark Twain NWR, Wapello Dist.
347.	Field Office Service Helps Fund Stewards	359.	Congressional State Fact Books Completed	374.	Necedah NWR contacted by Newspaper on Jr. Duck
	to Help Protect Piping Plover at Michigan State Parks Rachel Miller, East Lansing	360.	Chuck Traxler, External Affairs SA Kocal Teaches At Iowa		Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR
	Field Office	300.	Law Enforcement Academy Walt Kocal, Des Moines,	375.	Necedah NWR Hosts "Fire" Pack Test Site
348.	Ohio Man Fined For Unlawful Sale of Endangered	251	Iowa LE	276	Norman Brown, Necedah NWR
	American Crocodile Paul E. Beiriger, Rosemont, Law Enforcement Office	361.	Michigan Honors Service Special Agent For Investiga- tion of Tennessee Shell Robert Lumadue, Ann Arbor,	376.	Workshop at Necedah NWR is for the Birds Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR.
349.	Illinois EcoWatch Names Cypress Creek Refuge Staff	2.5	Field Office	377.	Girl Scouts Donate Nestboxes
	Volunteers of the Year Elizabeth Jones, Cypress Creek NWR	365.	"Singing Ranger," Part of IMBD Event Planned for St. Paul's Como Zoo May 8 Ed Moyer, Minnesota Valley		to Necedah NWR Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR
352.	Warbler Nests Monitored as Part of Avian Habitat Study		NWR	378.	Seney Hosts Successful Filmfest
	at Muscatatuck NWR Susan Knowles, Muscatatuck NWR	367.	Minnesota Valley NWR Applies for "Save America's Treasures"		Marianne Kronk, Seney NWR

379.	EPA's Sixth Annual Water- shed Partnership Seminar Arthur "Tex" Hawkins, Upper Mississippi River NW&FR	389.	1999 Northeast Wisconsin Teacher's Convention Cathy Carnes, Green Bay Field Office	402.	Green Bay Field Office Receives Taking Wing Award Gary Van Vreede, Green Bay Field Office
380.	LaCrosse Co-hosts Introduc- tion to Fish Health Manage- ment Course Becky Lasee, La Crosse Fish	390.	FWS Staff teach S-130/S-190 at University of Minnesota- Crookston Tom Zellmer, Agassiz NWR	403.	DeSoto Participates in Job Shadow Day Sarah Tuttle, DeSoto NWR
381.	Health Center Service participates in Cabela's Spring Expo Dan Sobieck, External Affairs	392.	Region 3 Annual Report Completed Scott Flaherty, External Affairs	404.	Handicap Accessible Fishing Area Created on Lake Onalaska Mary Stefanski, UMRNF&R LaCrosse District
382.	Sturgeon Enhancement Committee Meets Ann Runstrom, LaCrosse Fishery Resource Office	393	From Pasture to Managed Grassland, Grazing Project Benefits Environment Gary Van Vreede, Green Bay Field Office	405.	Hunter Education Students Certified with SAFETY Mary Stefanski, Upper Missis sippi NF&WR
383.	Interagency Flood reduction Task Force Mike Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR	394.	Hatchery's Raceway Covers Protect, Benefit Lake Trout Stocks Tracy Mattheis, Pendills Creek	406.	Jr. Duck Stamp Contest at Muscatatuck NWR Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR
384.	Record Entries for WI Federal Junior Duck Contest LuAnn Rochester, Necedah NWR	395.	NFH Spring Waterfowl Migration Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR	407.	Muscatatuck NWR Volun- teers Do Outreach Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR
385.	Piping Plover Protection in Indiana Dunes Rachel Miller, East Lansing Field Office	396. 397.	Bald Eagles Nesting on Mallard Marsh Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR Comprehensive Conservation	407.	FWS Exhibits at Indiana Wildlife Society Meeting Donna Stanley, Muscatatuck NWR
386.	Piping Plover Habitat Protection in Illinois Rachel Miller, East Lansing	398.	Plan Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR Storage Building	408.	Volunteer of the Year Recognized Cathy Henry, UMRNF&WR,
387.	Refuge Conducts Fee Hunting Workshop Ross Adams, Illinois River	399.	Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR Diversity Outreach Ron Bell, Squaw Creek NWR	409.	McGregor District Clam Investigation presented to Illinois DNR In-Service Gerald C. Sommers, Peoria LE
388.	NW&FR USGS Red River Wetland Study Started	400.	Refuge Officers Complete Firearms Training Ed Spoon, Madison LE	410.	Office Craig Smith Sentenced For Mussel Violations
	Mike Murphy, Hamden Slough NWR	401.	CITES Training Provided to Wisconsin DNR Employees Ed Spoon, Madison LE		Peoria LE Office

- 411. UW-Madison Students
 Birding at Necedah NWR
 Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah
 NWR
- 412. Necedah NWR Hosts Second Box Building Workshop Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah NWR
- 413. **Japanese Students visit Trempealeau NWR**Rick Frietsche, Trempealeau
 NWR

- 414. **Rx Burn at Muscatatuck NWR**Mike Oliver, Muscatatuck
 NWR
- 415. **Live Butterflies!**Becky Goche, Shiawassee
 NWR
- 416. Park Service Crew Assists with Refuge Prairie Burn
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 NWR

417. **Donation of 25 Bluebird Boxes for Prairie Park**Craig W. Lee, Litchfield WMD

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- 418. Renovation of Marquardt
 Pond
 Steve Van Riper, DeSoto NWR
- 419. **Open House at DeSoto Visitor Center**Bruce Weber, DeSoto NWR
- 420. Necedah NWR Hosts Crane
 Counters
 Jennifer Rabuck, Necedah
 NWR

Inside Region 3

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